

# LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION WATER RESTRICTIONS

**Residents and Businesses – Effective: 9/26/08**

*Charlotte, Highlands and Polk counties within South Florida Water Management District boundaries*



## **Irrigation**

Restrictions apply to all sources of water – from a utility, an individual well or withdrawals from a canal, lake or pond. If you live in Charlotte, Highlands and Polk counties within the South Florida Water Management District boundaries, follow the one-day-a-week lawn irrigation restrictions set by bordering Southwest Florida Water Management District unless your city or county has stricter rules.

- If your address ends in **0** or **1**, you may water on **Monday**
- If your address ends in **2** or **3**, you may water on **Tuesday**
- If your address ends in **4** or **5**, you may water on **Wednesday**
- If your address ends in **6** or **7**, you may water on **Thursday**
- If your address ends in **8** or **9**, and **locations without a street address**, you may water on **Friday**.

### **Less than 2 acres:**

Residents may water **before 8 a.m.** OR **after 6 p.m.** on their designated day.

### **2 acres and more:**

Residents may water **before 10 a.m.** OR **after 4 p.m.** on their designated day.

## **New Plantings, Sod or Landscape**

- For a 60-day period, beginning the day of installation, new plant material may be watered on ANY day of the week.
- On the day the plant material is installed, “establishment period” watering can occur once during otherwise restricted hours.
- After the day of installation, “establishment period” watering must be accomplished during allowable watering hours on any day (before **8 a.m.** or after **6 p.m.**, for properties under 2 acres in size).
- Additional watering days can only be used to benefit new landscaping, and an entire irrigation system zone may only be watered if it contains at least 50% new landscaping. If less than 50%, use targeted or hand-watering.

## **Hand Watering**

For stressed plants, 10 minutes per day on any day using a single hose with an attached automatic shut-off nozzle.

## **Fertilizer, Insecticide, Fungicide and Herbicide Water-In**

Allowed during normally allowable watering days and times unless a professional licensed applicator has posted a temporary sign containing the date of application and the date(s) of needed watering-in activity.

## **Car Washing**

Car Washing is limited to once a week, but fundraising events are allowed. Reduce offsite water discharge and mobile equipment washing.

## **Variances**

You may apply for a variance from water restrictions. The application form and instructions are online at [www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov). For more information about variances, call **(800) 432-2045**.

For more information on water shortage restrictions, visit our web site at [www.sfwmd.gov/conserve](http://www.sfwmd.gov/conserve) or call our **Water Conservation Hotline at (800) 662-8876** to request more information.

JR10/01/08



South Florida Water Management District  
3301 Gun Club Road • West Palm Beach, Florida 33406  
561-686-8800 • 800-432-2045 • [www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov)

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 24680 • West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680

**[sfwmd.gov](http://sfwmd.gov)**

# Frequently Asked Questions About Water Restrictions

**How much of these expanded watering opportunities should I use to irrigate my lawn?**

Proper irrigation is based on the amount of water each lawn needs. Lawns and landscapes typically need to receive only three-quarters to an inch of water each week. This usually means a maximum of two hours of irrigation per week, or a maximum of 15 minutes per irrigation zone for each water application. The lawn may not need to be watered at all if it has rained during the week.

**I water my lawn from a well, canal, pond or surface lake. Do these restrictions apply to me?**

Yes. Surface and groundwater sources are connected. Water in lakes and canals helps protect private and public wells from saltwater intrusion, and helps store rainfall to recharge wells and aquifers.

**Can I hand water my lawn?**

Yes. You can hand water stressed plants for 10 minutes per day using a single hose with an attached automatic shut-off or trigger nozzle.

**What other low-volume watering methods are allowed?**

Drip, bubble and micro-jet systems that apply water directly to root plant zones may be used any time. However, a voluntary reduction in use is encouraged, and any low-volume system should not produce water runoff. Watering cans are also low-volume and can be used anytime.

**When can I wash my car or boat?**

Anytime. Vehicle washing is not restricted, but voluntary conservation is encouraged. When washing a car, park it over a non-paved or porous surface to limit water runoff, and always attach an automatic shut-off or trigger nozzle to your hose. Limit boat rinsing to 15 minutes after it has been in salt water.

**My organization is scheduling a fundraising car wash. Do we need to apply for a variance?**

No. There are no restrictions on vehicle washing. Always attach automatic shutoff or trigger nozzles to hoses and, if possible, channel runoff water to a grassy area or porous surface.

**When can I use a water pressure washer?**

Anytime. Pressure washing is not restricted. Use low-volume equipment that produces water pressure of 1,000 pounds per square inch to 4,000 pounds per square inch. Channel runoff water onto the grass or another non-paved surface.

**What happens if I don't follow these restrictions?**

Residential and commercial water restrictions are mandatory and will be enforced by South Florida Water Management District staff, local governments and law enforcement agencies. Residential fines vary by municipality, but typically range from \$25 to \$125 for a first offense. Civil penalties for violations of restrictions by District permittees and commercial users begin at \$1,500 and can increase depending on the severity and frequency of the violation.

**How can I report violations of water restrictions?**

You may report violations to local law enforcement or city/county zoning and code enforcement agencies. Both have the authority to issue warnings and citations that can lead to fines. If you choose to notify your local law enforcement agency, please call their non-emergency number.

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